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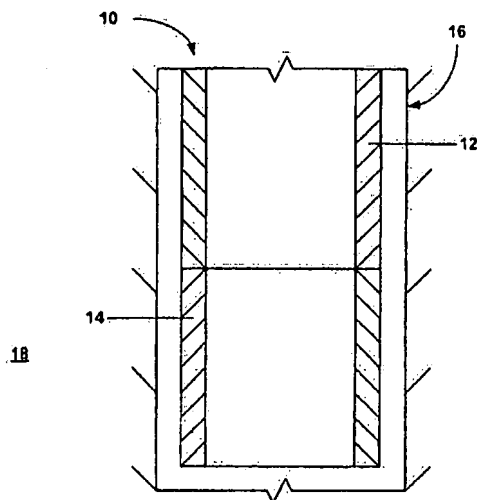
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(54) Title: RADIAL EXPANSION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method of radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members (10, 100, 200) is provided that includes selecting a tubular member, determining an anisotropy value and a strain hardening value for the selected tubular member (10, 100, 200), multiplying the anisotropy value times the strain hardening value to generate an expandability value for the selected tubular member (10, 100, 200); and if the expandability value is greater than 0.12, then radially expanding and plastically deforming the selected tubular member (10, 100, 200).

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 12 September 2006 (12.09.06);
original claims 1, 2, 6, 12, and 13 amended;
remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]

1. A method of selecting a tubular member based on its suitability for expansion, comprising:
 - determining an anisotropy value for a tubular member;
 - determining a strain hardening value for the tubular member;
 - multiplying the anisotropy value times the strain hardening value to generate an expandability value for the tubular member; and
 - selecting the tubular member for expansion based on the generated expandability value.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein an expandability value greater than 0.12 indicates that the tubular member is suitable for radial expansion and plastic deformation.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises a wellbore casing.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises a pipeline.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises a structural support.
6. A method of radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members, comprising:
 - selecting a tubular member;
 - determining an anisotropy value for the selected tubular member;
 - determining a strain hardening value for the selected tubular member;
 - multiplying the anisotropy value times the strain hardening value to generate an expandability value for the selected tubular member; and
 - if the expandability value is greater than 0.12, then radially expanding and plastically deforming the selected tubular member.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the tubular member comprises a wellbore casing.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein the tubular member comprises a pipeline.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein the tubular member comprises a structural support.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein radially expanding and plastically deforming the selected tubular member comprises:

inserting the selected tubular member into a preexisting structure; and
then radially expanding and plastically deforming the selected tubular member.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the preexisting structure comprises a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation.

12. A method of selecting tubular members for radial expansion and plastic deformation, comprising:

selecting a tubular member from a collection of tubular members;
determining a carbon content of the selected tubular member;
determining a carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member; and

if the carbon content of the selected tubular member is less than or equal to 0.12 percent and the carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member is less than 0.21, then determining that the selected tubular member is suitable for radial expansion and plastic deformation.

13. A method of selecting tubular members for radial expansion and plastic deformation, comprising:

selecting a tubular member from a collection of tubular members;
determining a carbon content of the selected tubular member;
determining a carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member; and

if the carbon content of the selected tubular member is greater than 0.12 percent and the carbon equivalent value for the selected tubular member is less than 0.36, then determining that the selected tubular member is suitable for radial expansion and plastic deformation.